

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1107

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to honor the Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of the Kedron United Methodist Church in Hickman County.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the faithful members of the Kedron United Methodist Church comprise one such congregation, and they are celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, established in 1810, Kedron United Methodist Church is the oldest established church of any denomination in Hickman County; and

WHEREAS, founded during the Presidency of James Madison, the original church was located in the community of Pinewood and was situated on the banks of the Piney River below the mouth of Garner's Creek; and

WHEREAS, initially, Kedron United Methodist Church was used as a school house during the weekdays and was transformed into a place of worship on Sunday; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, the church building was moved across an adjacent field using heavy cables and mules, placing it in a new setting near Highway 48 at the present location of the Chilton farm in Pinewood; and

WHEREAS, also in 1925, Mr. John Betty, a well-known carpenter, cut the timbers to build the pews currently being used in the church today; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, once again the members of the congregation of Kedron United Methodist Church chose to move the location of the church to land donated by the M. M. and

Mattie Pearl Reeves family, which serves as its present location a few miles north of Highway 48; and

WHEREAS, after tremendous grace, fortitude, charity, and faith by the members of the congregation, the new church building was erected and dedicated in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Kedron United Methodist Church has greatly benefitted from the deep and abiding faith of numerous prominent and distinguished preachers over the years, including J. G. Bolton (1866), W. Ellis (1871), J. W. Register (1884), G. W. Powers (1887), W. D. Cherry (1892), A. J. Mays (1907), J. E. Jones (1932), Shugart Martin (1938), J. E. Broyles (1941), Charles Covington (1945), George Gravitte (1951), and John Meadors (1956); and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Pastor Tom Barger was called to guide Kedron United Methodist Church, and he has served the congregation with the greatest integrity and utmost probity, earning the respect and admiration of the congregation for his deep sense of Christian belief; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2010, the members of Kedron United Methodist Church are celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of its founding with several special events, including an old fashioned ice cream social with special guests from the Hickman County Historical Society to be held in June, a homecoming celebration and revival in September, and a traditional Christmas celebration in December; and

WHEREAS, from its humble beginnings two centuries ago until today, this vital and committed community of faith has successfully endeavored to live out its vision of ministry and service to God and humankind; and

WHEREAS, Kedron United Methodist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 200 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Hickman County; and

WHEREAS, Kedron United Methodist Church is one of the truly home-grown institutions of the great state of Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this historic religious institution and its members as they commemorate this significant milestone in their existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of Kedron United Methodist Church upon the congregation's celebration of the church's bicentennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding service to our fellow Tennesseans and the entire world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.